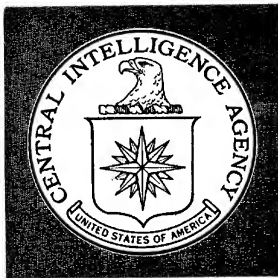


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CIA/SAVA

WVIND 710807



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 7 August 1971

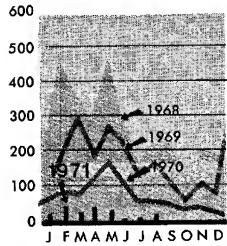
NSA Declassification/Release instructions on File.

For the President Only

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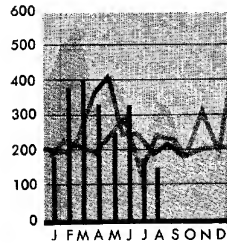
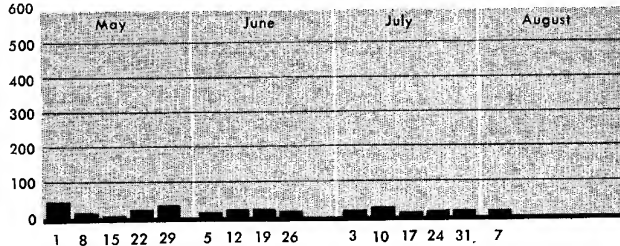
SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1971
Weekly average for each month



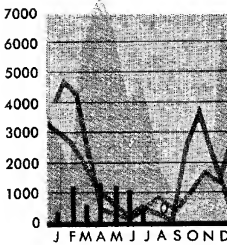
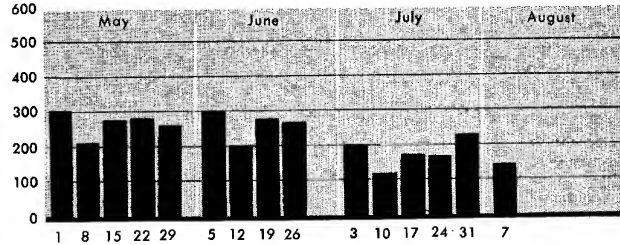
MAY 1971 - AUGUST 1971
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS rose to 18 from the 14 of last week.



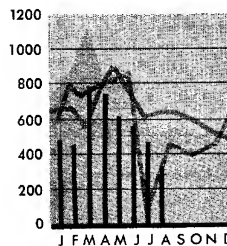
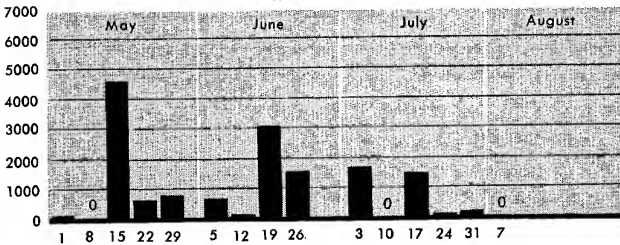
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

dropped to 152 from last week's 246. The official total will change and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.



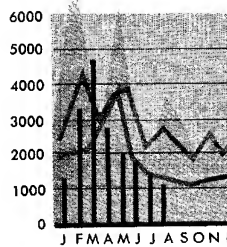
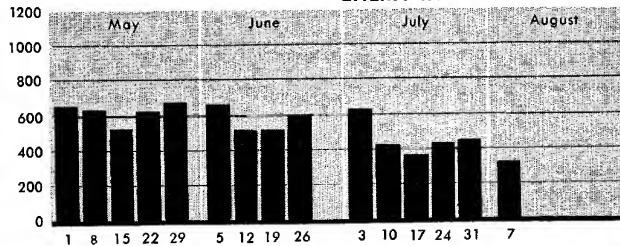
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

stand at zero. The infiltration estimate since 1 October 1970 remains at some 75,600 - 77,600.



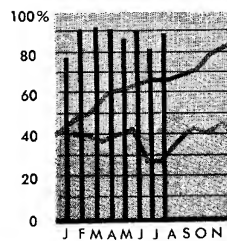
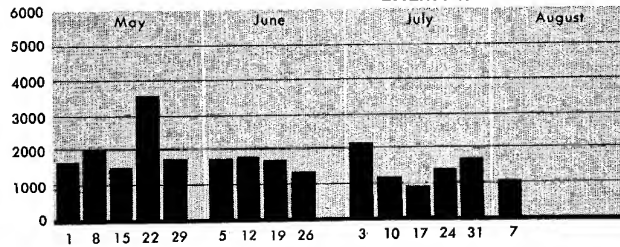
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

declined from last week's 459 to 358.



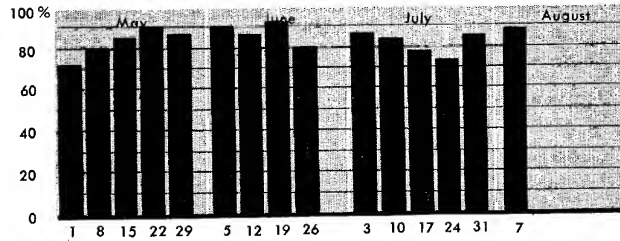
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

decreased to 1,006 from the 1,643 of last week.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces rose to 89% from last week's 86%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated activity in South Vietnam remained at low levels during the past week, but available evidence suggests a significant increase in attacks may occur during the week immediately preceding the GVN Lower House elections on 29 August. During the intervening period, however, the present low level of activity seems likely to continue.

In north Laos, where enemy forces in the Plain of Jars area have recently been reinforced, there has been a series of minor engagements and enemy artillery attacks. In southern Laos, the three-pronged friendly campaign to recover lost territory in the central Panhandle and on the Bolovens Plateau has had only limited success since the retaking of Saravane last week. Most of the task force operating around Muong Phalane is withdrawing and stiff enemy resistance has prevented the recovery of Paksong.

Communist military activity in Cambodia remained low during the past week. A slight increase in enemy harassment against government positions along lines of communication has been noted, but the government's rice convoys between Battambang and Phnom Penh have continued without incident. Meanwhile, the multi-battalion operation, launched on 26 July to interdict the enemy's "western supply corridor" north of Phnom Penh, terminated on 5 August with no significant results. In eastern Cambodia, South Vietnamese forces reported killing 100 enemy in several clashes in Prey Veng and Svay Rieng Provinces over the weekend.

Enemy Infiltration

No new infiltration groups were detected during the past week and, thus, the estimate of personnel destined for South Vietnam/Cambodia since 1 October 1970 remains at some 75,600 - 77,600. Although inputs into the infiltration pipeline have apparently ceased, enemy transportation elements are continuing their efforts to maintain the system and prepare for the upcoming dry season while moving large numbers of previously detected infiltrators through the southern portion of the Lao Panhandle.

South Vietnam Developments

Supporters of President Thieu will probably win a majority of the 152 seats at stake in the Lower House election on 29 August. Thieu regards this election as an important indicator of his own prospects for re-election, and he is using the government machinery to assure a good showing for pro-government candidates. Although there have been several reports of pressure and intimidation by province chiefs and other local officials against anti-government candidates, this does not appear to be as blatant as that employed to deny Ky's qualification in the presidential race. Most of the 55 candidates disqualified, including only four opposition An Quang Buddhists, appear to have been eliminated on legitimate grounds, thus enhancing the prospects for a fairly credible election.

It is still not certain what course Vice President Ky will pursue following the Supreme Court Standing Committee's rejection of his presidential candidacy. By filing an appeal to the full court, Ky can keep the pot boiling until the final posting of candidates on 24 August, but this course will probably not succeed in re-establishing his candidacy in view of the court's pro-executive cast. Appraisals from the field assess the possibility of a coup attempt or other rash act by Ky as unlikely, though coup rumors -- inevitably -- are already beginning to circulate. Duong Van Minh and his entourage are giving out ambivalent indications of Minh's intentions. Minh has probably not yet made up his own mind on what to do, but for the time being at least he is officially in the race. The Saigon atmosphere is clearly heating up and though a serious coup attempt is unlikely, there is a real possibility that some individual or group -- including the Communists -- may attempt to assassinate Thieu between now and October.

~~Top Secret~~